

comprises determining whether a size of an area having a brightness deviation exceeds a predetermined allowable size.

48. (NEW) The method of claim 44 wherein identifying the region over which the slope of the histogram data changes comprises determining whether a number of areas having brightness deviations exceeds a predetermined allowable number of areas having brightness deviations per unit area.

49. (NEW) The method of claim 44 wherein identifying the region over which the slope of the histogram data changes comprises determining whether a number of areas having other image data deviations exceeds a predetermined allowable number of areas having image data deviations per unit area for image data other than brightness data.

REMARKS

Pursuant to the filing of the above-referenced Continuation Patent Application, Applicants cancel originally filed claims 1 through 26 without prejudice or disclaimer, and submit herewith new claims 27 through 49 for examination, which are believed to be drawn to a patentably distinct and non-obvious combination. Consideration for allowance of Claims 27 through 49 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that the claims presented herein are distinguishable and non-obvious over the prior art of record. Applicants respectfully solicit an early notice to the effect that all claims are allowable.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

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By: _____

Christopher J. Rourke

Registration No. 39,348

Attorney for Applicants

AKIN, GUMP, STRAUSS, HAUER

& FELD, L.L.P.

1700 Pacific Avenue, Suite 4100

Dallas, TX 75201-4618

(214) 969-2800

(214) 969-4343 facsimile

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